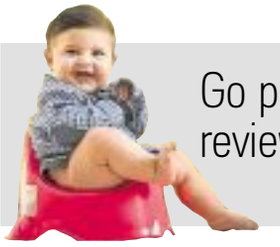

Go potty over our review of the year

PAGES 17-19

Car smashes into family living room

PAGE 7

Luton on sunday

January 3, 2016 | Issue number:1,082 | luton-dunstable.co.uk | FREE

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Don't go out without first checking our leisure guide

FROM PAGE 21

£10,000

KEECH CHRISTMAS STARS

That's what you call a gift: Hospice is overwhelmed by readers' generosity

BY NICK SMITH
nick.smith@lutononsunday.co.uk

AS we welcome in the new year, *Luton on Sunday*'s Keech Christmas Stars appeal has come to a brilliant close.

We're proud to say that we have broken the £10,000 mark - with donations still coming in - and would like to say thank you to everyone who put their hand in their pocket this Christmas.

Keech Hospice Care, in Great Bramingham Lane, is celebrating its 25th year doing fantastic work for terminally ill children and adults. Back in November, we launched the Stars appeal, asking local people and businesses to donate to this vital cause.

And you certainly delivered.

One of the children your money will help is six-year-old Jakub Steczkiewicz of Sanfoine Road, Luton, who featured on our front page.

He is one of only a handful of people to have ever had five of his organs transplanted at the same time – twice as a result of Hirschsprung's Disease.

His mother, Edyta, 27, praised Keech for all they have done for her son, saying: "I can honestly say Keech Hospice Care is the best thing ever. We found the charity at a time in our lives when we were so scared and needed help.

"It is so much more than just a building in Luton where people go to die.

"I don't think people realise what the charity does out in the community."

Liz Searle, acting CEO of Keech Hospice Care said: "Here at Keech, we would truly like to thank *Luton on Sunday* and all of the readers for backing Keech's Christmas Stars Appeal.

"It costs £150 to pay for a nurse to care for a child at home for a day and £500 for an overnight stay break at Keech for a family at Christmas.

"As a charity, we rely on 70 per cent of our funding to come from our community. . . fantastic total has been raised which will make a real difference.

"On behalf of us all here, and our patients and their families, thank you for the support you have shown Keech throughout 2015 and please accept our best wishes for the New Year."

Editor of *LoS*, Sarah Cox, said: "We have been amazed by the generosity of readers to our appeal.

"To reach £10k in such a short space of time is a tremendous achievement and we would like to thank everyone who donated – no matter how big or small the sum.

"Let's hope this is only the beginning and we can raise even more in 2016!"

★ Jakub Steczkiewicz

★ Indira Doug-Duffield

★ Zofeya Dorgu

★ Ruby Rackley

★ Callum Slee

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image of the week

TAKING IT EASY: This image was captured by golf enthusiast David Miller, who took advantage of the unseasonably warm weather this Christmas to unwind with a round at Stockwood Park course. Taken a great photo of Luton or the surrounding area recently? Email it to editor@lsnmedia.co.uk

New law bolsters abuse crackdown

BY NICK SMITH
nick.smith@lutononsunday.co.uk

CAMPAIGNERS have hailed a new law punishing controlling behaviour as 'a significant step forward' in strengthening legislation around domestic abuse.

The new law views coercive behaviour in abusive relationships as an offence, which could carry a sentence of up to five years.

A spokesman for Bedfordshire Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership (BDSAP) said: "We welcome this new law which recognises, for the first time, that coercion and controlling behaviour are key underlying factors in a domestic abuse situation.

"The new powers mean that these behaviours can now be prosecuted in their own right."

Detective inspector Aaron Kiff, lead of the force's domestic abuse investigation and safeguarding unit, said: "Curtailing the freedom of another person and causing distress and damage is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

"Often this behaviour prevents victims coming forward and inflicts a life of fear, isolation and intimidation."

This follows a report released last month about the overall performance of Bedfordshire Police which commended the force's dedication to protecting victims of abuse.

The BDSAP spokesman added: "We will continue to work with police to tackle this challenging and complex issue. A number of agencies, play a crucial role in tackling domestic abuse which can only be done through effective partnership working."

Editor's Letter

Women still paying for right to give birth

RESEARCHERS call it 'The Motherhood Penalty'. But the negative long-term effect for women who take maternity leave is actually just a good old fashioned disgrace. Despite us now being in 2016, the situation for female managers over 40 is the worst it has been for a decade.

The picture for women in general, according to the latest figures from the Office for National Statistics, shows the gap for median hourly earnings stands at 19 per cent.

Last month, these findings were presented to the women and equalities select committee ahead of an inquiry by MPs into why the gender pay gap still exists. Presumably this will culminate in some tough talk and perhaps even an Act. But haven't we been here before? In 1970 with the Equal Pay Act, in 1975 with the Sex Discrimination Act and in 2010 with the Equality Act? The solution will not be a simple one but must surely lie in enforcing anti-discrimination laws to protect all working parents.

Sarah Cox

Police investigating Marsh Farm shooting

A MAN from Luton suffered a leg injury following a shooting in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

Bedfordshire Police were called to the incident in Wexham Close, Marsh Farm, shortly after midnight.

Officers said the man's injuries are not believed to be life-threatening.

Detective Sergeant Martin Eaton, investigating, said: "I am keen to reassure the community that we are treating this as an isolated incident. We do not believe there is a threat to the wider public, and we are working hard to find the person responsible.

"Tackling gun crime is a key priority for the force and thankfully incidents like this are rare. We take all firearms offences incredibly seriously and our officers are carrying out enquiries to track down the person responsible."

Any with information about the shooting should call DS Eaton on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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Weigh to go: Mum and daughters lose 280lbs

BY CARL MUNGAZI
carl.mungazi@lutononsunday.co.uk

HOW do four people lose a combined weight of 20st 6lbs between them? By egging each other on when the going gets tough and cooking together when it gets even tougher.

The Pearson family, consisting of mum Jacqui, 49, and daughters Danielle, 28, Kayleigh, 26, and Natasha, 24 went on a collective journey to change their lifestyles and shapes after becoming increasingly unhappy with their size.

At the start of January 2014 they were frustrated with feeling 'hungry and miserable' after trying different diets.

Jacqui said: "We had tried every diet so we just decided to go back to basic and Slimming World was one of the first ones that I tried. We decided to do it all together and give each other encouragement. When things were difficult we spent a lot of time together, cooking together and going to each other's houses.

"It was always going to be difficult but the change this time was actually getting to grips and understanding the Slimming World diet. It was about changing lifestyle and eating habits."

SHEDDING LOADS: Jacqui Pearson and daughters Danielle, Kayleigh and Natasha have changed their lifestyles

Since starting the diet Jacqui has lost 5st 10lbs, Danielle 4st 4lb, Kayleigh 5st 10lbs and Natasha 4st 10lbs. The weight loss plan is focused more on eating habits so the quartet did not do intense physical activity outside of things such as dog walking.

However, Jacqui said they now want to become more active as they enter the next phase of their journey.

She said: "Changing the lifestyle was easy and it's all about getting to grips with the diet and it's not that you cannot have stuff, you just have to eat differently."

"Our next step is that my two other daughters are going to continue losing weight but me and my other daughters are going to get exercising."

Kayleigh added: "I still eat all the same meals that I did before but now I cook and prepare them differently, I cook from scratch instead of relying on ready meals and convenience foods like jars of sauce or instead of ordering expensive and fattening takeaways."

Fire chief given honour by Queen

THE top boss at Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service has been made a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) in the Queen's New Year's Honours list.

Chief fire officer Paul Fuller is the first Bedfordshire chief to be recognised with the title.

He said: "I am hugely delighted and honoured to be recognised in this way, and I am grateful to all those people who supported the nomination."

Mr Fuller joined the fire service in 1978 and became chief at Bedfordshire in February 2002 after a career with West Midlands, West Sussex, Staffordshire and Wiltshire fire services, including a secondment to Warwickshire in 2009.

He is a fellow of the Institution of Fire Engineers, holds a master of science in human resources management, a bachelor of science in fire safety technology and management. He was also awarded the Queens Fire Service Medal in the Birthday Honours in 2008 and was made a Freeman of the City of London in 2012.

David McVicar, chairman of the Beds Fire Authority, said: "Paul is a credit to the Fire Service both locally and nationally."

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Advertisement feature

Special LUTON ON SUNDAY *Reader Offer*

2016 should be your last year with back pain and sciatica

By Sam Potter

IF YOU suffer from low back pain and sciatica, you are one of over 20 million adults in the UK with this often crippling spinal condition.

Shooting, stabbing and burning pains from the low back, sometimes with additional pain through the buttocks and down the legs are all symptoms of a pinched nerves often called "sciatica".

In severe cases, it can lead to muscle wasting, numbness and constant tingling down to the tip of the toes. Left untreated, the intense pain can rapidly wear you down and drain the joy out of life.

That is, until now...

Recent advances in the treatment of sciatica and lower back pain have led to the development and huge success of Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care.

The excellent results of this treatment have been published in major medical journals. With success rates as high as 90% some back surgeons recommending their patients try this treatment first before having back surgery.

In Bedfordshire, you can try Non-Surgical Re-constructive Spinal Care at the Atlas Wellness Centre – the office of low back pain and sciatica relief expert Peter Olsson.

Peter and his team of fully trained spinal care specialists have helped over 4,026 patients find relief from their agonising back pain and sciatica.

According to Peter, "We use a combination of ultra-advanced technology, not found elsewhere in Bedfordshire, for precisely diagnosing the cause of your low back pain and sciatica; and a unique programme for reconstructing the damaged area causing the pain; this means superior long-term results for most people."

Because the treatment is non-surgical, safe and easy, most patients report an almost immediate relief from their pain.

Patient Jeff P. from Cambridge says, "My back pain was unbearable but the worst thing was the searing burning pain I felt in my buttock and leg.

I couldn't work or do anything useful and the drugs my GP prescribed hardly did anything.

My wife insisted I respond to one of these ads, I thought it would be a total waste of time, but I'm so glad she kept on at me.

Thank god I called your number, I'm 95% better in just a couple of weeks."

Your invitation for a comprehensive consultation and examination to pinpoint the cause of your low back pain and sciatica...

Luton on Sunday has teamed up with the spine therapy specialists at Atlas Wellness Centre, to help readers find relief from their persistent back and sciatic pain.

All you have to do to receive a thorough diagnostic examination with the most advanced technology in the world and a comprehensive easy to understand report on your state of health is call 01234 340317.

Mention this article (CODE: LOS43SCID5NY) and Atlas will happily reduce their usual consultation fee of £245 to just £43. But hurry, due to obvious reasons – this is a time limited offer – with only 100 reader consultations available at this exclusively discounted rate.

My advice, don't suffer a moment longer...

Find out if Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care can help you, book a consultation with Peter and his team now by calling 01234 340317, they are waiting to take your call today.

They actually treat the cause of your health problem, not just your symptoms.

That's why hundreds of grateful patients tell them "You gave me back my life!"

Over the years, they've treated thousands of patients with back problems and sciatica. The vast majority of them have enjoyed superior, lasting relief. In fact, many who've suffered and have tried other remedies have told them they gave them back their lives!

Call them now and leave a message as they won't be open again until the 5th of January, they promise they will get back to you as soon as they can. You'll get a full and thorough examination to pinpoint the cause of your problem for just £43, the normal cost of such an exam is £245 so you will save £202!

Don't suffer from the pain and immobility any longer. Discover the natural treatment that can eliminate the cause of your problem and give you the safe, lasting relief you deserve.

Call them now on 01234 340317 and leave a message as they won't be open again until the 5th of January, they promise they will get back to you as soon as they can. You'll be entitled to a comprehensive examination to diagnose the cause of your problem – and you'll be on your way to safe, lasting relief! Don't delay your important diagnosis and treatment another moment!

You can even call on the weekend and leave a message on their answer machine to secure your spot as they promise to return all calls; and during the week they are very busy, so if they don't pick up straight away do leave a message.

For obvious reasons they can't help everyone at this reduced price, so please call soon to secure your special opportunity.

Some people prefer to consult directly with Peter Olsson rather than one of his fully trained specialists. While he is under incredible demand it is possible to secure a consultation for just £93. Just ask if he is available when you call - you will still save £152, but be aware his time and availability is strictly limited!

Call 01234 340317 NOW and leave a message as they won't be open again until the 5th of January, they promise they will get back to you as soon as they can. So call now on 01234 340317 and quote this special discount code: LOS43SCID5NY

Sciatica Relief Expert Peter Olsson, says: In 10 years of practice, I've never seen a treatment as effective as Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care for patients with sciatica or lower back pain

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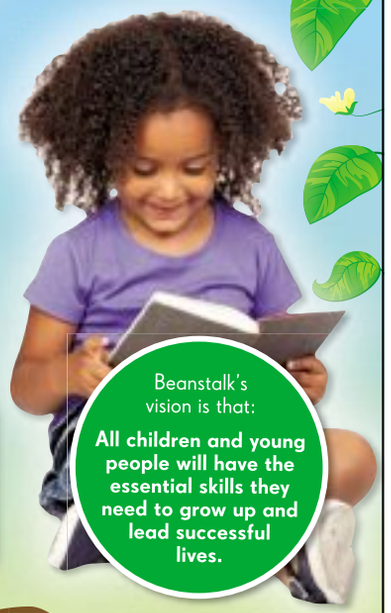

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Ron retires from 'fantastic job

IT was goodbye to 2015 and goodbye to work colleagues for a charity manager who will be taking it easy after 19 years of dedicated service.

Ron Miller, 77, has been co-ordinating the operations at Shopmobility, a charity which loans wheelchairs and mobility scooters to people with walking difficulties.

The popular figure has helped hundreds of residents with limited mobility take the opportunity to go shopping without worrying about how they will get around.

Ron started with the charity as a treasurer before gradually working his way up to become the co-ordinator of the 18-strong volunteer team.

He said: "I have been here for so long because it is a fantastic job.

"It is one of the few jobs where you get genuine satisfaction and the people that we help are fabulous.

"They are all very brave. It's not easy to take a motorised scooter out in the shopping mall but I can understand that they are lonely and need to go out."

Ron will be replaced by his colleague Jayn Harris who will become the new co-ordinator.

She said: "He is going to be missed dreadfully. I've got big shoes to fill.

"He has been going since the inception and it's been a long time that he has been involved with things.

"When someone has been in the company that long. . . he has been a big influence."

FINAL CUT: Colleagues said Ron Miller would be 'missed dreadfully'

Pooch bandits fail in dog napping bid

BY CARL MUNGAZI
carl.mungazi@lutononsunday.co.uk

A DOGWALKER narrowly escaped from three Dobermans and two Staffordshire bull terriers during a harrowing encounter on Christmas Eve.

The man, who does not wish to be named, was approached in Dunstable at around 10.30pm by two teenage boys who tried to steal his pedigree Lhasa Apso dog.

They had their dogs on a leash but released the Dobermans after he refused.

The man said he had been walking by the cemetery in West Street when his dog, Eddie, started behaving like 'somebody was there'.

RUFF JUSTICE: Eddie is a Lhasa Apso, like the dog pictured here

He said: "I walked down to Chiltern Road and then at the back of a chip shop I saw two lads with Staffies behind me so I turned into a dead end street to see if they would walk past. I walked to the end of the street to let them go past. I then went to the back of the chip shop again but I saw the lads and they had three Dobermans. One of them said to me, 'give me your dog and you'll be alright'.

"I was scared so I ran to someone's door but the guy said he could not let me in.

"I asked him to call the police because the dogs were getting closer but eventually someone else let me in. He walked with me and then I rang my girlfriend to come and meet me."

The dogwalker said he had seen people posting stories of similar incidents online and wanted to warn other owners to be vigilant.

Bedfordshire Police said it had received no reports about the issue.

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Shane Putney with Miss Bailey

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Family shaken by lounge car crash

BY STEPHEN PENN
editor@lsnmedia.co.uk

A FAMILY had a near miss this week after a car ploughed into their living room where the children had been playing moments before.

The Baheten family had been relaxing and playing games during their Christmas break just before the Mercedes crashed into their home at around 4pm on Tuesday.

The car crash threw their couch from one side of the room to the other, destroyed their wall, living room, computer, Christmas gifts, and Christmas tree.

Blaise Baheten, 39, who lives at the house with his wife Hannette, also 39, and their three children aged 17, nine, and five, said he and his family feel incredibly lucky they did not lose more.

Blaise said: "My children had been playing on the PlayStation all morning, so I told them to go to the park.

"They can't have been gone 15 minutes when the car came bursting through.

"We have lost a lot of personal belongings but we are very lucky that no-one was in the room when it happened."

CRASH: Blaise Baheten, 39, outside his home in Luton Road, Dunstable, after a car crashed through his living room wall

Blaise, who has lived in the house for two years, was allowed back into the property following investigations by the fire service and council, and he is waiting for his landlord to update him on how they stand with the insurance company for getting their home fixed.

Luke Shore, 37, an eyewitness to the event said: "I couldn't really believe what I was seeing. I pulled up to the road near Tesco with my girlfriend and saw the vehicle was just stationary.

"I was about to wind my window down to ask the driver what was going on, when I heard his engine rev, and he shot across the central reservation, clipped a car, and shot into the house."

Police are not investigating as it is not believed any criminal offence has taken place.

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Cloudy2Clear service the Luton, Dunstable and Stevenage areas and Tom is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Tom a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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Project to boost inclusion in sport

BY NICK SMITH
nick.smith@lutononsunday.co.uk

WORK must be done to engage black and minority ethnic (BME) groups and women in sport according to a new study.

In a report by Sporting Equals, it was found that in Luton there is a need to provide more female volunteers and coaches for all-female sport, to be more receptive to the cultural needs of the community, and also to increase engagement with the young population through social media.

Councillor Aslam Kham, portfolio holder for public health, said: "Sport and physical activity is still a relatively low priority among many people in Luton's South Asian BME communities. We need to look at the facilities, both indoor and outdoor that are accessible in these areas and to understand the specific requirements of the community and explore where current provision isn't meeting needs."

Funding has been secured to help BME women and girls in Luton into coaching through a number of roles such as community enablers, activaters and leaders within their chosen sport.

The project is called Me Time Leaders, and has a target of achieving 30 women qualified by March and also enabling 150 women to attend health and wellbeing workshops in the hope of educating not only themselves but also their families.

An event is being held from 4-7pm on January 27 at River Bank School where attendees can give their views on how to achieve the aims and find out more about Me Time Leaders.

Right up your street

A new start for main link with county town

AT the start of a new year Howard Chandler considers one of our newer roads, New Bedford Road, which opened in 1832...

Before town councils and highways agencies, roads were repaired by Turnpike Trusts which raised money from tolls.

From 1727 to 1879 the Luton District Turnpike was responsible for the road from St Albans and to Bedford. The existing road to Bedford was a narrow and twisty lane that took a difficult route over the Barton Hills. The new road was needed to improve trade and communication, especially important as no rail link would exist until 1868.

No record exists of any formal road opening in 1832 and it was left to map makers to decide what to call a road. I have seen 19th century maps with what we now call Old Bedford Road marked as Barton Road and Bedford Road with the 'New' name first seen in 1851. In 1936 a proposal to name the part after Stockingstone Road 'New Bedford Road North' was rejected by the council.

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YourVoice

Luton on sunday

DOZYPARKERS

Move along

WE hope the owner of this vehicle has a New Year resolution with a parking flavour to it. This snap was sent in by a frustrated resident who said the van was sitting by a blind spot at the bottom of Sanfoin Road and Drayton Road for months.

If you see any other Dozy Parkers in Luton over the New Year period email your photos to editor@lsnmedia.co.uk

Luton on sunday

READALLOVER

THIS week we snapped Dawood Masood, founder of the Quba Trust, an interfaith group based in Luton.

Despite his busy schedule, Dawood is always sure to catch up with the latest in his home town by reading *Luton on Sunday*.

Get a snap of yourself or a friend reading this week's paper and email it to editor@lsnmedia.co.uk for a chance to feature in Read All Over.

BLOGGER OF THE WEEK: NICK SMITH

Power to the people

This week's blog comes from reporter Nick Smith, who gives his take on the proposals for the new Hatters stadium and why it is a breath of fresh air compared to recent stadium relocations. . .

WHILE I can't profess that Luton Town is my first team, I am nonetheless delighted by the new plan for a stadium in the centre of the town.

I say this as a follower of the club and also as a football fan in general.

So often do we see clubs which have been based in historic old grounds, packed with character located in the centre of town, pushed out of their historic home and away from the fans.

A prime example just down the road is Bedford Town, which reformed in 1989 having sold their old ground to the Charles Wells brewery.

In 1992, the year I was born, as they climbed the pyramid, they moved out of the town to Cardington on the outskirts of town.

I'm originally from Bedford and don't know anyone of my age who supports their hometown club.

Speaking to people as to why this is, it's mostly down to not knowing there was a club on their doorstep, along with the obvious allure of more 'glamourous' clubs.

While attendances have dropped since the 1950s for a variety of reasons, it's hard to imagine thousands of people turning out for a Bedford Town game nowadays.

I think Gary Sweet and Luton Town 2020 should be commended on their plans to locate the new Luton Town stadium to Power Court, as learning from experience, when out of town grounds were all the rage, they are more trouble than they're worth.

Take a look at Coventry City, who are only just now getting back to some semblence of normality following their expensive relocation to the Ricoh Arena, which truth be told is closer to neighbouring town Nuneaton than it is to their spiritual home.

I'm a Leicester City fan myself, a team which has been reaping the benefits of their new stadium in recent years after a dodgy start.

Morever, it's a stone's throw away from the old ground.

Problems I'd point to with my own club's ground is the atmosphere being like at a typical bowl stadium.

Having attended the meeting where Mr Sweet unveiled the new proposals for the Power Court site, he was quick to say that some of what makes Kenilworth Road what it is would be incorporated into any new stadium, along with not over-estimating the capacity.

17,500 was the figure quoted, with a possibility of expanding to 22,500 if deemed necessary.

Mr Sweet said that he wouldn't want to see empty seats at every home game - which having seen The Foxes play in League One in front of less than half capacity crowds - is not something you want for the club financially or for fan experience.

I understand the trepidation from some given the long and storied history of new homes for the Hatters which have led to nothing but disappointment, but I think this is a truly exciting time for the club - and the best move for all going forward.

Your Luton on sunday Letters

MOVING ON: Power Court, the new home of Luton Town Football Club

Closed doors, closed off

CLOSING down police counters is just another way of giving the public less accsess to the police.

Just like with politicians, if you need to talk to the police, you will have to use the phone.

That makes it easier to fob you off. They hope that you can't be bothered to report crime. Why don't the police stick their heads in the sand, like ostriches do? Maybe the crimes will go away.

John Tucker
Bracklesham Gardens
Luton

Stop punishing children

AS we enter a new year, I would like to draw your readers' attention to the plight of thousands of children across the UK.

And the fact that the prison system is jeopardising thousands of children's right to see their dads.

Barnardo's new survey of the prison visiting system in England and Wales finds that visiting hours are increasingly being taken away to punish prisoners leaving some children with just two hours a month to visit their dad behind bars. Meanwhile those awarded the 'enhanced' status of four or more visiting hours has fallen by 16 per cent. That's why Barnardo's is calling for an end to family visits being used to discipline prisoners.

Having a parent in prison can leave children more likely to develop mental health issues, underperform at school, and tragically go on to offend themselves. It's time for a sea change in the way these overlooked and isolated children are treated. Government and prisons must work together to ensure that the visiting system, whilst recognising the need for security, never punishes children.

Jonathan Whalley
Director, Barnardo's South East and Anglia

Thank you, Cardinal

MAY I take this opportunity to thank and commend all those involved with the 'Saviour of the World' Carol Service held at Cardinal Newman Secondary School on December 14.

Special thanks must go to the year 7 choir as well as the school choir not forgetting the staff choir who sang with great enthusiasm!

I was made to feel extremely welcome by everyone at the school and must thank the Friends of Newman for providing the refreshments.

Thanks to all those who planned and delivered such a moving service.

Steven Dolby
Lalleford Rd

Council's own goal?

SO, it looks like LTFC really is going to move out of its Kenilworth Road site at last.

But what's going to happen to this prime site when it has gone?

It would be a very extravagant waste to hang onto it as a practise field so I do hope Luton Borough Council doesn't pass up a golden opportunity to help solve one of its most pressing – and depressing – problems. That of homelessness.

Instead of continuing to spend millions of pounds on B&Bs, hotels and private landlords why don't they take a bold and radical step instead? If they took over the site they could cover it with mobile homes.

These are very much cheaper than bricks and mortar and importantly, once the services were laid on, they would be up and running virtually instantly.

It would be nice for council taxpayers to see their expensive investment being used a little more.

Ron Turvey
Stanmore Crescent

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Luton on sunday

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EVACUATED: The terminal was emptied after an alarm

Airport emptied after fire alarm

A FIRE alarm caused the terminal of Luton Airport to be evacuated on Monday morning.

An eyewitness tweeted the event and that fire crews had entered the airport but that nobody seemed to know the cause at the time.

Airport management later revealed there was a brief evacuation of the terminal building after a fire alarm manual call point was activated.

Grrreat! Bear Club hits funding target

BY NICK SMITH
nick.smith@lutononsunday.co.uk

THE owner of a popular jazz club saved from closure thanks to generation donations from members of the public has said it is all down to 'the spirit of Luton'.

After the Bear Club was made subject to an excessive noise order served by Luton Borough Council in November, local people rallied around to raise the £10,000 necessary to save it via a JustGiving page.

The venue, in Guildford Street, only needed £9,400 to help soundproof the club.

The money is to be spent on sound mitigation equipment, which it is hoped will eliminate excess noise.

On the club's JustGiving page, it stated: 'As one of Luton's few remaining industrial buildings, it comes with challenges of how to do this right, respectfully and within a reasonable scope.'

A final donation of £200 from Luton Town Football Club pushed it over its target, with a spokesman for the club commenting: "Let's finish this off. It's the Luton thing to do."

More than 4,000 people signed a petition to urge the council to keep it open.

The club's owner, Justin Doherty, said: "Anyone in doubt about the spirit and community of Luton need look no further than this.

"We can't wait to reopen and bring in old friends and new ones too. Great music and friendship will await you."

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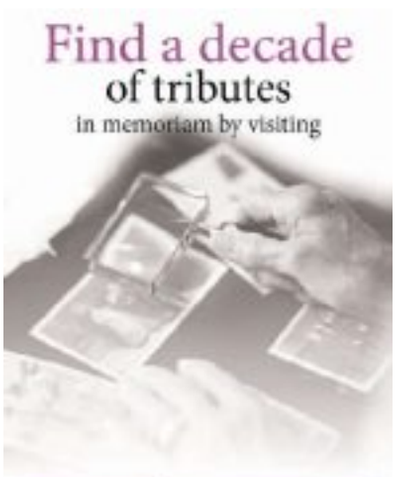

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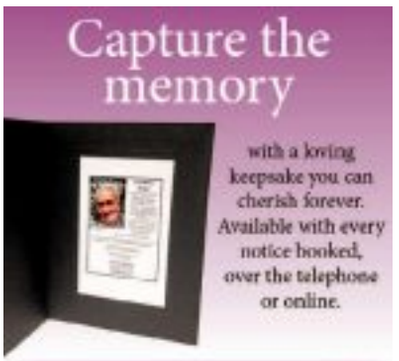

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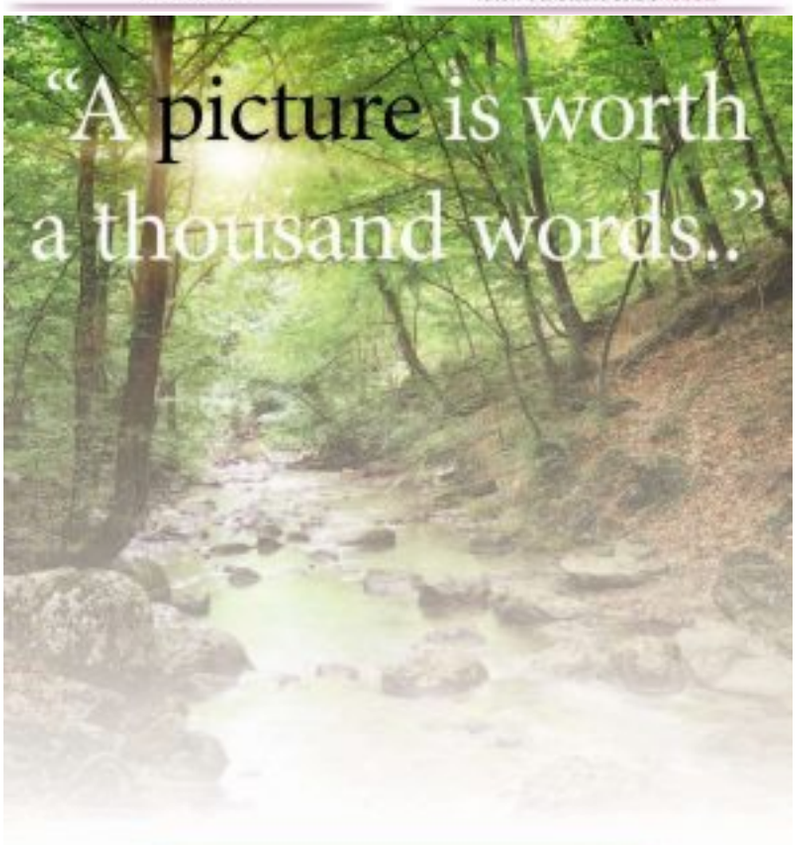

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Flying in face of the festive spirit

BY CARL MUNGAZI
carl.mungazi@lutononsunday.co.uk

RESIDENTS have again called for tougher action on fly-tippers after yet more rubbish was dumped over the Christmas period.

Piles of packaging, cardboard and even sofas and refrigerators were left outside neighbourhood recycling centre (NRCs) in St Dominics Square, Lewsey Farm, and in Old Bedford Road, Luton, over the holiday break.

One resident, who wishes to remain anonymous, contacted *Luton on Sunday* with pictures following recent coverage of the issue in this newspaper.

They said: "Surely the council must have seen it or someone reported it so they could send someone to clean it. It was all over the floor and is a hazard because it can attract rats. There are two food shops right next to that area so that's not good news - more rubbish and it's a vermin feast.

"There is a councillor who lives on that estate so do not tell me that they did not see it. Why is nothing being done about it?"

THAT'S RUBBISH: Unwanted items were dumped in Old Bedford Road and Lewsey Farm

What do YOU think? Email editor@lsnmedia.co.uk

A number of residents have told *LoS* they want a 'zero-tolerance' approach to the issue.

Luton Borough Council said officers were reviewing CCTV footage from the square.

A spokesman said: "Residents are asked to support efforts to keep Luton tidy by taking their recycling to the tidy tips when NRCs or their kerbside bins are full.

"We recognise that recycling facilities are in greater demand at this time of year and therefore ensured this site was emptied before the holidays on Christmas Eve.

"Crews were back in operation on Monday when the site was cleared again."

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Review of the Year. . .

Town heroes and election wins

LUTON on Sunday takes a trip down memory lane, looking back at the stories which made the headlines in 2015. Which ones do you remember?

JANUARY

A TRAVELLER site deemed to be in an 'unsuitable' place was re-opened after a revamp costing almost £1m, *LoS* revealed. Timberlands site in Pepperstock had been shut in 2012.

LUTON-born entrepreneur Jamal Edwards received an MBE for contributions to music. He found fame after starting a YouTube music channel called SBTV.

FORMER Luton Town boss John Still was given the freedom of the town for his role in guiding the club back to the Football League in 2014.

DEVELOPMENT: The Duke of Kent visited Hayward Tyler last year

FEBRUARY

ENGINEERING firm Hayward Tyler announced its was starting a £3.5 million expansion during a visit by the Duke of Kent.

CONCERNS were raised in Dunstable after four women had their drinks spiked in pubs and clubs. The incidents led to an investigation by Bedfordshire Police.

A NEW study revealed that Bedfordshire had the highest number of killings per head. Community workers said more work needed to be done to tackle serious crime.

MARCH

WARDOWN Park Museum was given more than £200,000 by the Government for its refurbishment project.

A LOLLIPOP man was banned from high-fiving children as they cross the road because of national safeguarding guidelines. Parents in Harlington said the ban, imposed by Central Bedfordshire Council, had 'upset' children.

WONDERKID: Alexander Oniciuc (right) is said to have potty trained himself and above, Kelvin Hopkins and Gavin Shuker held onto their seats as the Labour Party suffered big losses nationally

HAVE-A-GO hero Zulfiqar Afsar who helped rescue a vicar after a collision was given a bravery award at the Houses of Parliament. Mr Afsar was part of a group of men who helped Revd Mike Jones when he was crushed by a car in May 2014.

APRIL

EX-LABOUR councillor Khtija Malik was suspended by her party over alleged irregularities in her expenses claims.

A FIVE-month-old baby is said to have potty-trained himself. Couple Raluca and Finn Oniciuc said they take their son Alexander Oniciuc to his potty when he calls.

MAY

LUTON MPs Gavin Shuker and Kelvin Hopkins held on to their seats whilst their party suffered heavy losses across the country. Mr Shuker said Luton was now a 'dot of red in a sea of blue'.

JUNE

POLICE were called out to a bomb hoax which shut down King Street in the town centre. A bomb disposal robot and six ambulances were dispatched.

IT was revealed that more than 70 suspected illegal immigrants had been detained in Bedfordshire in June. A local carpenter with a hobby farm next to the M1 said a number of them had passed through his land.

■ Continued on page 22

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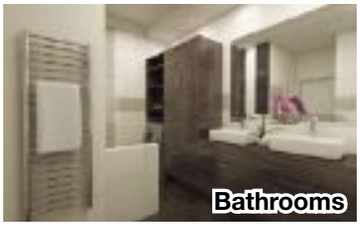

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Luton on sunday

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Review of the Year. . .

Homes, schools

LUTON on Sunday takes a trip down memory lane, looking back at the stories which made the headlines in 2015. Which ones do you remember?

JULY

A FAMILY of 12 did not come back from a holiday to Bangladesh travelled to Syria. The family, which includes a one-year-old child, went to territory controlled by ISIS.

FATHER Nicholas Harry launched his 'fight for justice' after being told his ex-partner and her boyfriend could not be prosecuted for the death of his 20-month-old son Sam in April 2013.

AUGUST

LUTON On Sunday revealed that families moved into Luton from London were having to store their belongings in the fridge and sleep on the kitchen floor because of cramped living conditions. An entire block of flats in the town centre had been leased for residents from Waltham Forest Council.

CROWDED: Scores of London families are being housed in Luton

KEECH Hospice patient Tony Jules announced he was going to spend his dying days raising £40,000 to fund a nurse for the charity, despite suffering from terminal prostate cancer.

SEPTEMBER

ADEBAYO Ekun was jailed for life for the murder of a teenager 14 years ago at a So Solid Crew gig in Luton. Ekun fled the UK in 2001 and was extradited from Nigeria.

THE £600,000 Luton Travel Centre was slammed for not having a phone number. Cllr David Franks said the centre, which also houses a Starbucks shop, was no more than a 'coffee shop'.

A LUTON family joined hundreds of others in taking

Luton on sunday

Ocean Cruising

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- Finnish capital Helsinki doubled for Moscow in many a Cold War movie
- Take an excursion to Stockholm from Nynäshamn
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- 12 nights' full board accommodation on board Magellan

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Amsterdam & Ghent Summer Weekend

Sailing from Tilbury on board Magellan, departing 28 May 2016

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ABTA The Travel Association

and bake offs

supplies to migrants in Calais, France. Victoria Dautovic travelled with her parents and brother.

OCTOBER

LUTON Borough Council backed plans for a mixed free school despite opposing a similar all girls' facility weeks earlier. St Anne's High School for Girls received government approval but the council is supporting the 'Chiltern Academy'.

NEW research showed that property prices in Luton experienced the highest rate of growth outside of London since August 2014. Average house prices went from £182,108 to £209,272.

LUTON-born baker Nadiya Hussain *(right)* was crowned winner of the Great British Bake Off. The former Challney High School for Girls pupil made a Union Jack-themed wedding cake in the final.

NOVEMBER

BEDFORDSHIRE Police's removal of a plaque in memory of Leon Briggs angered his loved ones. The force said it needed to explore any 'potential legal implications' the plaque could have on future proceedings.

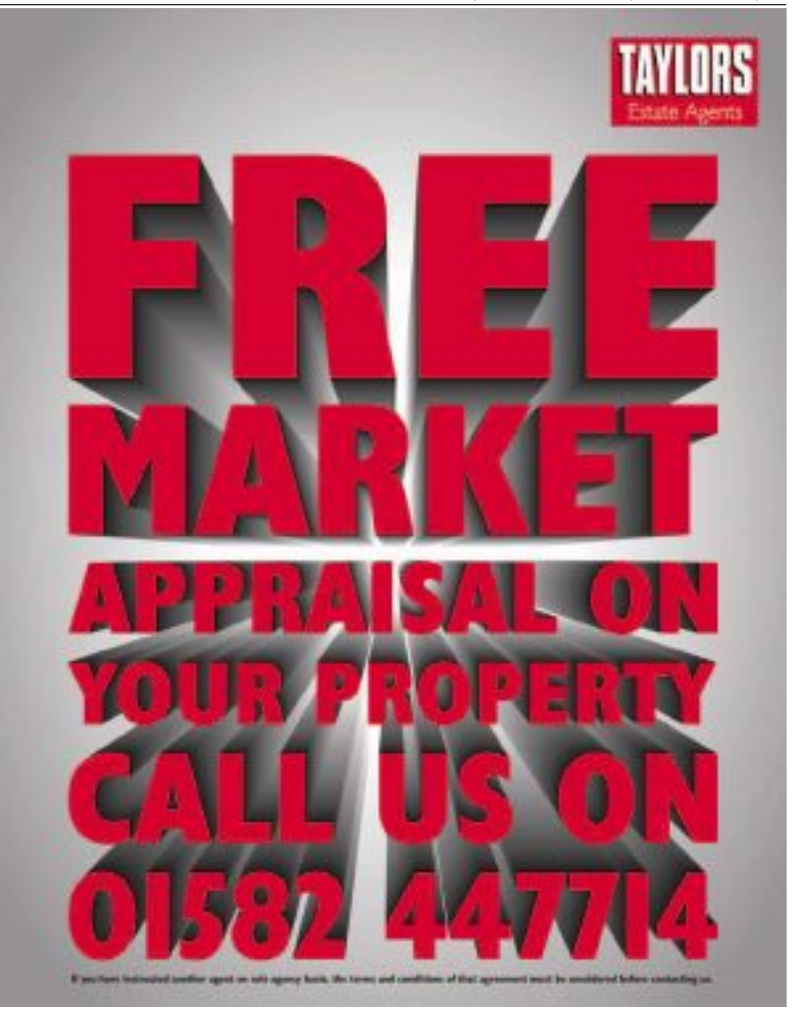
POLICE and crime commissioner Olly Martins' was slammed for his plans to raise cash by turning on M1 speed cameras.

HELPING OUT: The Dautovic family went to the camps in Calais

DECEMBER

LUTON Council was told to take tougher action against fly-tippers after a councillor said the town was 'choking' on piles of dumped rubbish.

THE Duke of Clarence, in Upper George Street, was re-opened after being shut for 'repeated crime and disorder'. The new manager said he wanted to re-build its reputation.



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onthego

Another year of song, dance and action

IT's a brand new year and that can only mean one thing - new productions, plays and music events for you to look forward to.

Last year was another memorable one for events in Luton and the surrounding areas but the coming 12 months promise to be another exciting and interesting time for leisure and culture.

One of the highlights in the first quarter of the year will be at the Luton Library Theatre on February 25 when beatboxing supremo Shlomo comes to town. The musician has worked with acts such as Bjork and Ed Sheeran and he will be using his voice and technology to show off the power of music.

Another musical highlight on the horizon will be the Grove Theatre's Musical Maestros workshop on February 15 and the 'A Thousand Faces' show on acid violence against women at the Hat Factory on February 26.

Youth will also get a chance to shine this March when the 100 per cent Young Producers team hosts the Luton Fringe Festival. The stage will be set for creatives, performers, artists and wordsmiths to show the best our town has to offer. It follows last year's Luton Cans Film Festival which celebrated film talent.

As you can see, a lot is on offer this year and the previews above are just a sample so make sure to keep yourself in the know by reading onthego!

MUSIC ● THEATRE ● EVENTS ● REVIEWS ● ART ● FAMILY ● HOME ● CINEMA ● KIDS ● STARS

Leisure or events news to share? Email editor@lsnmedia.co.uk or call 01234 300888

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EXHIBITION

All aboard for the Alban Arena

FEATURING at least 25 high quality layouts, St Albans Model Railway Fair is a must for any model train enthusiast.

There wil be a chance to see different models and gauges, along with trade events and live demonstrations. For those who will be making the trip over from Luton by train, there is a free vintage bus service from the City and Abbey train stations to the venue.

The event is set over threee floors with one inaccessable to wheelchair users.

As such, admission is free for people with critically impaired mobility. Tickets are £8, or £4 for under 16.

ST ALBANS MODEL RAILWAY FAIR ALBAN ARENA JANUARY 17 & 18

MUSIC

Schubert comes to Library stage

THE first event of the year for Luton's popular classical music series kicks off this month with a trio of distinguished musicians tackling the works of Schubert.

His lieder, including Auf dem Strom, and his Arpeggione sonata are followed by the Ralph Vaughan Williams' ever popular Songs of Travel.

Performing the repertoire are tenor James Gilchrist, violist Philip Dukes and pianist Anna Tilbrook.

Tickets cost £15 with £8 concessionary fees and free entry for under 18s.

They can be booked by calling 01582 878100.

MUSIC ON MONDAY LIBRARY THEATRE JANUARY 18

FILM

FILM SCREENINGS GROVE THEATRE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

Out of this world

IT was one of the most talked about films of 2015 and there is another chance to see it this week if you missed out the first time.

From three time Academy Award nominated director Ridley Scott, The Martian (12A) is showing for two days only at The Grove.

During a manned mission to Mars, Astronaut Mark Watney (Matt Damon) is presumed dead after a fierce storm and left behind by his crew.

But Watney has survived and finds himself stranded and alone on the hostile planet.

With only meager supplies, he must draw upon his ingenuity, wit and spirit to survive and find a way to signal to Earth that he is alive.

Showings for this critically acclaimed film, which is an early favourite for many at this year's coming Oscars will be screening on Friday at 7.30pm and Saturday at 1.30pm.

Also screening at the same time on Saturday is a more family-oriented film, with Pan (PG) taking to the Dunstable silver screen.

Based on the loved Peter Pan story, this film tells the tale of an orphan who is spirited away to the magical Neverland.

There, he finds both fun and dangers, and ultimately discovers his destiny – to become the hero and save the day.

Tickets for all screenings cost £7, with £2 off for concessions and wheelchair users, with front row tickets costing £14.

Friends of The Grove are entitled to 2-for-1 tickets.

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REVIEW

Enchanting tales of local folklore

WITCHES, extra-large giants, Roman conquerors, pub landlords and witches – these are just a few examples from the cast of zany characters that illuminate this particular collection of fairytales.

Bedfordshire Folk Tales is professional storyteller and Bedford woman Jen Foley's first published book. In it she explores little-known Bedfordshire legends and brings them to life by weaving folklore together with stories from her own imagination.

The book begins with the ghostly story of a Luton merchant named John who buys a huge black dog to protect his family from rival gangs after he becomes a smuggler, based on old legends of a sinister black hound said to confront travellers on the road that is now the A6.

Foley awakens readers' interest in Bedfordshire's rich and vibrant history by intertwining ordinary, relatable characters with fairytales and folklore.

I've read several authors' attempts to 'promote' Bedfordshire by commenting on their story's local setting over and over and the effect is rather contrived.

But Foley is sparing with the local references, using her home county as a springboard rather than a literary claxon. The appeal of Bedfordshire tales will endure with readers who live beyond the region's borders.

The book is paced well – tales of highwaymen terrorising Houghton Conquest residents and giants smashing up Luton's landscape are broken up by understated, charming romances between Saxon citizens and Roman nobles.

The story of Saint Christina, an Anglo-Saxon heiress who goes to extraordinary attempts to resist marriage and lead a holy life, is haunting.

Foley is a natural storyteller but has struggled with the transition from speech to print. Her first book is promising – Bedfordshire Folk Tales is an action-packed romp across Bedfordshire's history, with fairytales ranging from creation stories passed among our first settlers to myths that Foley imagines comforted a 19th century Roxton community.

Yet the quality of her writing varies; at times her phrasing is clumsy and awkward, while other stories flow neatly.

Adults on the hunt for a compelling but nuanced collection of local folklore will find Bedfordshire Folk Tales doesn't hit the spot.

It's clear the book is aimed at kids and although Foley doesn't shy away from or dumb down difficult topics, she has watered down her writing style for young readers.

The book makes a perfect bedtime story compendium for parents to share with their children and with more time to grapple with the genre Foley may produce some excellent work.

JENNA HUTBER

BEDFORDSHIRE FOLK TALES JEN FOLEY

What's hot in Luton

FULL House Theatre will be running its free art, drama and dance sessions in Houghton Regis this month.

'Art Town - Arts Starters' will be a series of workshops at the Bedford Square Community Centre in Houghton Regis for young people interested in exploring their creative abilities. It will be led by the theatre company's experienced creative team and will run on January 19 and 26 between 4.30pm-6.30pm and 6.30pm-8pm.

IRISH band The Murphys will be visiting the Luton Library Theatre on February 6 for a night of country music. The family band from County Kerry has represented Ireland and UK across the globe whilst producing several hit songs, including 'My Connemara Marble Ring'. Tickets cost £12.

Alice in Wonderland is given a new twist by On Pointe Dance Academy & The Performing Arts Depot when they perform at the Grove Theatre on January 31. In this play Alice embarks on a strange adventure at her new high school where she meets many interesting people. Tickets cost £12.

COFFEE TIME

PATHWORDS

Starting from the central shaded letter, move one letter at a time (up, down, right or left, but not diagonally) to find 14 sports contested in athletics.

M	P	C	A	L	O	S	E	R	T	E
U	D	E	T	H	N	F	I	V	E	M
J	H	O	H	S	P	D	R	U	T	D
I	G	T	J	U	M	L	E	H	H	N
H	K	P	E	L	P	I	S	N	O	A
A	L	U	A	M	J	R	T	I	U	S
W	E	T	H	M	A	V	E	L	H	L
A	C	A	H	E	A	R	A	A	T	O
R	E	S	C	R	M	H	T	T	P	N
E	P	L	E	L	E	O	N	H	E	D
E	T	S	Y	A	R	S	U	C	S	I

TRANSFORMER

Add the given letter or letters to the first word to make a new word.

_ _ _ _ + Y

= _ _ _ _ Y

Clue: Turn an amphibian into a flatterer.

TRAIN OF THOUGHT

What word links the following?

_ _ M _

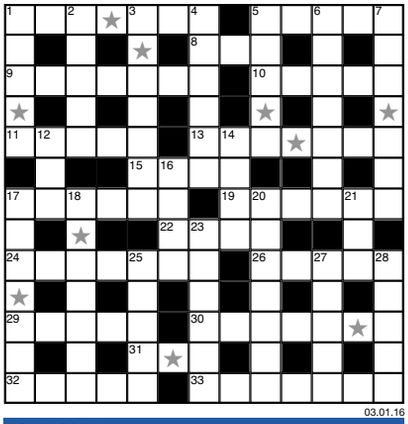
1. a group of temporary lodgings;
2. a military depot;
3. affected or exaggerated.

FIVE ALIVE

Here are two miniature five-square crosswords using the same grid – but the letters have been mixed up. You have to work out which letters belong to which crossword.

HC	AH	UR	CE	SK
AR		NI		OU
WO	RU	IO	JT	EA
UK		OJ		TL
PS	CA	AN	LD	AY

STARSPOT CROSSWORD



03.01.16

Can you find the celebrity name hidden in this crossword? The letters in the starred squares will make an anagram of the name.

CLUES ACROSS

1. Lauds (7)
5. Ovules (5)
8. Headgear (3)
9. Violent windstorm (7)
10. Conscious of (5)
11. Enchantment (5)
13. Vacated (7)
15. Otherwise (4)
17. Photographic device (6)
19. Become visible (6)
22. ---- days' wonder (4)
24. Mail employee (7)
26. Android (5)
29. Spin (5)
30. Picture to oneself (7)
31. Part of play (3)
32. Legitimate (5)
33. Simplest (7)

CLUES DOWN

1. Ways (5)
2. Consent (5)
3. Of lesser magnitude (7)
4. Beaches (6)
5. Postal token (5)
6. Inspect closely (7)
7. Slight (7)
12. Vegetable (3)
14. Intend (4)
16. Narrow road (4)
17. Chief city (7)
18. Absent (7)
20. Maybe (7)
21. In the past (3)
23. Encourage, attrac (6)
25. Solid element (5)
27. Newly-wed (5)
28. Special outing (5)

SUDOKU

Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and so must each 3 x 3 box.

9	4			3		1		8
5		3			9		7	6
	6		1	5	2	3		
8	9	6			3			
				7		8		2
	7			4				
	3		5		1		8	
4		5	7		8	6	3	
		7						

SOLUTIONS

ATHWORDS:
Vellit; hurdles; triple jump; shot put; hammer; marathon; heptathlon; discus; relay; steeplechase; race walk; high jump; decathlon; five thousand metres.

RANSFORMER:
Toad + Y = Toady.

RAIN OF THOUGHT:
Camp.

IVE ALIVE:
) Across – Hares; Wrote; Daily.
own – Hawks; Riola; Netty.
) Across – Chuck; Ouija; Banda.
own – Group; Union; Data.

TARSPOT CROSSWORD:
cross – 1 Praises; 5 Seeds; Hat; 9 Tornado; 10 Aware; 1 Spell; 13 Emptied; 15 Else; 17 Camera; 19 Appear; 22 Nine; 24 Postmen; 26 Robot; 29 Twist; 30 Imagine; 31 Act; 32 Legal; 33 Easiest
Down – 1 Paths; 2 Agree; 3 Smaller; 4 Snores; 5 Stamp; 6 Examine; 7 Slender; 12 Pea; 14 Mean; 16 Lane; 17 Capital; 18 Missing; 20 Perhaps; 21 Ago; 23 Invite; 25 Metal; 27 Bride; 28 Treat.
Star Name – TIM MINCHIN

SUDOKU:

9	4	2	6	3	7	1	5	8
5	1	3	4	8	9	2	7	6
7	6	8	1	5	2	3	9	4
8	9	6	2	1	3	7	4	5
3	5	4	9	7	6	8	1	2
2	7	1	8	4	5	9	6	3
6	3	9	5	2	1	4	8	7
4	2	5	7	9	8	6	3	1
1	8	7	3	6	4	5	2	9

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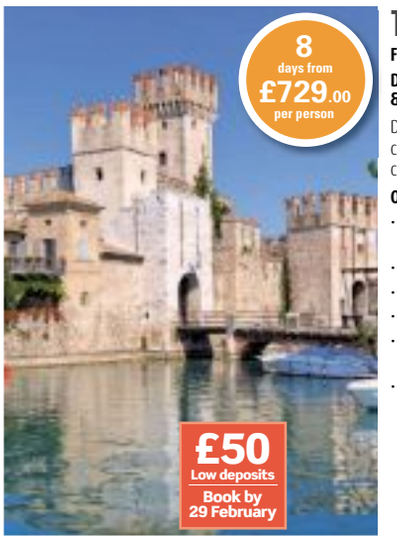
- Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager
- Seven nights' three-star half-board hotel accommodation, return flights from London Stansted & London Luton and transfers



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Discover Europe's most surprising capital, explore the 'Land of Fire and Ice' and search for a celestial phenomenon.

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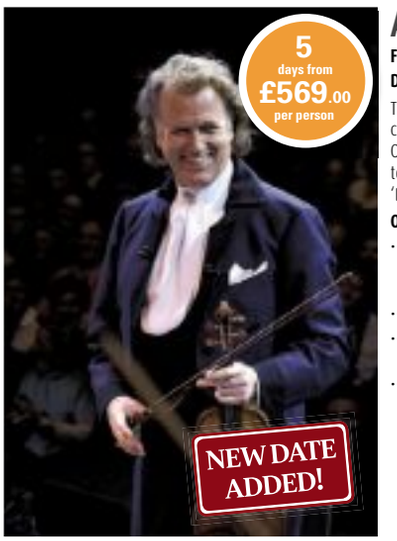

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Family Worker

£21,695 - £24,045 p.a. **Vacancy ID: 104073**
37 hours per week, term-time, plus 10 days

We are looking for the right person to join our family team. We are an expanding school near the centre of Luton with a vibrant Family Room and plenty to keep you busy!

- Do you enjoy working with children from babies to 11 years?
- Can you build relationships with parents, carers, school staff and other professionals?
- Can you identify strategies and activities to support families?
- Are you discrete and tactful yet not afraid to deliver tough messages?
- Are you resilient, flexible and able to manage a busy diary?
- Do you have experience of working with parents and children and hold an NVQ3 or other relevant qualifications?

Interested? Make an appointment to come and meet us on 01582 748810 and see for yourself what a great place our school is for pupils, parents and staff.

Behaviour Support Co-ordinator

£20,032 - £22,203 p.a. **Vacancy ID: 104074**
35 hours per week, term-time, plus 5 training days

Do you have substantial experience and expertise in working with children with a wide range of Behavioural, Emotional and Social needs?
Do you love working with challenging children and believe strongly in developing emotional literacy?
Are you empathetic, caring, flexible and resilient?
If yes then this could be the job for you!

We are a friendly, inclusive school. OFSTED (January 2015) said:

- The school is a happy one where pupils from many different cultures and backgrounds work and play together in harmony.
- Pupils have positive attitudes to learning, behave well and feel safe.
- The curriculum gives pupils a varied range of experiences that contribute strongly to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Visits to the school are encouraged. Please contact the school on 01582 748810 to arrange an appointment.

Please visit our website www.surreystreetprimary.com to download an application form for either of the above roles or email pa@surreystreetprimary.net.

Closing Date for both roles: 15th January 2016
Interview Date: w/c 25th January 2016

CVs will not be accepted for any posts based in schools.
Schools are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expect all staff to share this commitment.
Applicants must be willing to undergo child/vulnerable adult protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with previous employers and a Criminal Record check.

We value equality because quality services need the best people - from the whole community.

LUTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

WARDEN HILL JUNIOR SCHOOL
Birdsfoot Lane, Luton LU3 2DN

Teaching Assistant (3)/ Learning Supervisor

£12,844 - £14,058 p.a. **Vacancy ID: 104062**
28.83 hours per week, term-time, plus 5 training days

"Warden Hill Junior School is a safe and secure place. Pupils are happy to come to school. The behaviour of pupils is good" OFSTED 2014.

We are looking to recruit a Teaching Assistant(3)/Learning Supervisor, to start as soon as possible, to:-

- cover teaching colleagues as required, following pre-prepared lesson plans and activities
- provide emergency absence cover as directed
- provide classroom support when teacher cover is not required.

You must have:-

- experience of working in a school environment
- have demonstrable experience of planning, monitoring and assessment of pupils' work
- relevant NVQ Level 3 or equivalent qualification
- ability to commit to relevant job training.

We can offer you:-

- well behaved and happy children who are keen to learn
- friendly and supportive staff
- excellent CPD opportunities.

Visits to the school are very welcome, please contact the school office on 01582 591386 to arrange an appointment.

Closing Date: 13th January 2016
Interview Date: 21st January 2016

CVs will not be accepted for any posts based in schools.
Schools are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expect all staff to share this commitment.
Applicants must be willing to undergo child/vulnerable adult protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with previous employers and a Criminal Record check.

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The ideal candidate will work both as part of a team and alone. They need to be physically fit. The work will be varied and the hours could be flexible depending upon work demand. The work will involve working in all weather conditions.

Closing date: Noon Friday15 January 2016.

Interviews will take place on: Week commencing 18 January 2016.

Full details and an application pack are available from our website: **www.harpenden.gov.uk/vacancies-and-tenders,** call **01582 768278,** e-mail: **harpenden.town.council@harpenden.gov.uk**

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Planning Notices

LUTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
NOTICE IS GIVEN UNDER
TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE ORDER 1995

Site: Premier Inn Hotel, Luton Airport, Osborne Road
Description: Erection of a three storey extension comprisinf of 39 additional bedrooms to existing 134 bedroom hotel, with alterations to car parking and associated works.
Application No: 15/01790/FUL

Site: Unity House, 111 Stuart Street
Description: Erection of a 5th floor comprising 17 studio flats.
Application No: 15/01506/FUL

The application and submitted details can be inspected using Public Access, the on-line planning service at www.eplan.luton.gov.uk and enter the application number into the Application Search. This site can be accessed at any library free of charge. If you wish to discuss the proposal, please contact the Case Officer on Luton 546317.

Any representations should be made to the Development Control Manager within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application number above. This can be done in writing or on-line through public access (full details can be found on the website).

Dated 3rd January 2016
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NOTICE IS GIVEN UNDER
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS & CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS & CONSERVATION AREAS) REGULATIONS 1990

Site: Union Chapel House, 43 Castle Street
Description: Alterations to the exterior of a Listed Building.
Application No: 15/01809/LBC **Listed Building**

The application and submitted details can be inspected using Public Access, the on-line planning service at www.eplan.luton.gov.uk and enter the application number into the Application Search. This site can be accessed at any library free of charge. If you wish to discuss the proposal, please contact the Case Officer on Luton 546317.

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TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE ORDER 1995

Site: Land Adjacent To Purway Close, The Moakes

Description: Phase 1 redevelopment comprising of 7 commercial units and 24 flats together with associated parking, landscaping and outdoor gym. - Minor Material Amendment in variance with condition 22 of Planning Permission No. 15/00785/FUL dated 24.09.2015. (plan no. 33 - Retail Block 1 Ground and First Floor Plan and plan no. 67 - Retail Block 1 Elevations)

Application no.: 15/01579/MMAMD

The application and submitted details can be inspected using Public Access, the on-line planning service at www.eplan.luton.gov.uk and enter the application number into the Application Search. This site can be accessed at any library free of charge. If you wish to discuss the proposal, please contact the Case Officer on Luton 546317.

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Meet the Skoda Superb: Page 35

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Nissan is famous for being a top-selling car brand, but few people would realise it is fast becoming one of Europe's biggest camera companies too. Having fitted over two million camera units to its range in less than two years it is now snapping at the heels of some of the world's biggest camera makers. Increased safety technology means that Nissan's best-selling models now have up to five cameras per car. It means that the leading Crossover brand sells an astonishing 3,400 cameras per day, or more than two per minute.

AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE TESTING

Fully autonomous Ford Fusion Hybrid vehicles are taking to California streets next year, as Ford Research and Innovation Center Palo Alto continues to grow. Ford is officially enrolled in the California Autonomous Vehicle Testing Program to test autonomous vehicles on public roads. This is part of Ford's 10-year autonomous vehicle development program and a key element of Ford Smart Mobility, the plan to take the company to the next level in connectivity, mobility, autonomous vehicles, the customer experience, and data and analytics.

MCLARENS IN MINIATURE

Production of the full size McLaren P1™ may have ended but McLaren Automotive has linked up with selected partners to offer every fan of any age a scaled down McLaren P1™ of their own. Many sizes, shapes and styles are available, from 1:64 models all the way up to an exact, hand-crafted 1:8 scale replica. The smallest size of McLaren P1™ is now within the reach of the very young, even if their only in-come is from pocket money, thanks to Mattel-HotWheels. The miniature die-cast toy McLaren P1™ is available in Volcano Orange and Supernova Silver and measures 75mm. The brand has been a favourite of young collectors since 1968 and remains one of the most popular toy car producers today. For those who would rather build their own, Lego® has created a Volcano Yellow McLaren P1™ as part of the Speed Champions series.

SSANGYONG TIVOLI MOTABILITY

The SsangYong Tivoli is now available through the Motability Scheme which means disabled motorists can lease a new Tivoli using their higher rate mobility allowance. The models available include the 1.6 litre petrol SE, EX manual and automatic and ELX manual. The stylish Tivoli is a new and contemporary B-segment SUV that offers a comprehensive specification and sector-leading prices from just £12,950 – and from £99 Advance Payment for Motability Scheme customers.

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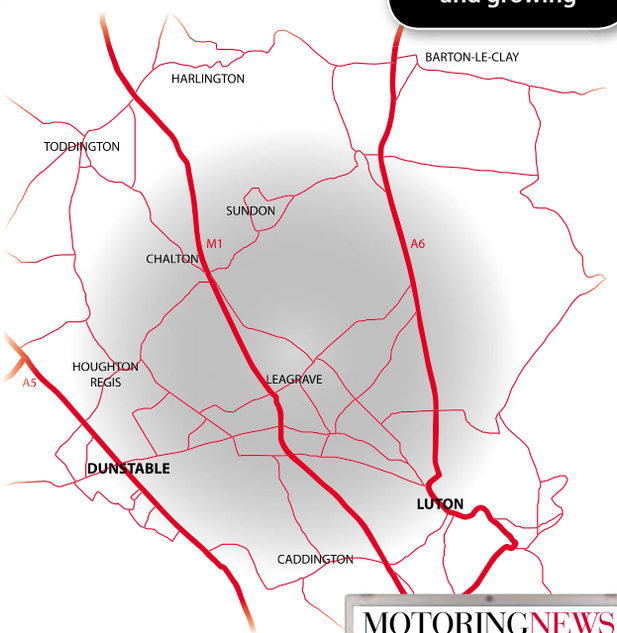

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COVERCAR

Skoda Superb

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Skoda's Superb gets a smart new suit, a slicker chassis and better engines. The weird twin-opening hatch is replaced by a more conventional rear aperture but there's still more space inside than in some London starter homes and the pricing remains sensible.

Skoda's been dipping into the almost unlimited largesse of the Volkswagen Group to bring us some mouthwatering engine and gearbox combinations with this latest Superb. There was a time when Skoda was just given the cast-offs, the engines that were in the final years of production, while Audi and VW got the shiny new technology. That's not the case any longer, with the Superb getting petrol engines like the excellent downsized 124bhp 1.4 and even a monster 2.0-litre turbo with 276bhp, four-wheel drive and a dual-clutch DSG gearbox. In between those extremes, petrol folk get to choose between a 148bhp version of the 1.4-litre TSI unit and a DSG-only 218bhp 2.0-litre TSI variant.

Go diesel and you're looking at 148bhp and 187bhp 2.0-litre TDI engines with six-speed manual or DSG 'boxes. Both of these engines are also available with all-wheel drive options.

The torsional rigidity of the chassis increases by 12%, yet weight is down by 75kg for a body-in-white, due to the strategic use of high-tensile steels where required. The clever MQB chassis, which underpins the Volkswagen Golf and Passat, is used here in its longest guise to date.

After the bold exterior, the interior feels a bit safe in its aesthetics, but there can be few complaints about either quality or space. At 4,861mm long and 1,864mm wide, the third generation Superb is 28mm longer and 47mm wider than its predecessor, while the 2,841mm wheelbase is 80mm longer, allowing for greater space within the passenger compartment. Rear legroom is frankly ridiculous. It's vast in the back. The boot is 30-litres larger than before, at 625-litres, expanding to a cavernous 1,760-litres with the rear seat backs folded.

The Skoda Superb looks the part, making it ever easier to convince those whose car views are at least a decade out of date that a Skoda deserves a place on your shortlist if you're in the market for a medium-ranger. It's slick, presentable and, yes, simply clever.

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on the road

Five Stars For Mercedes-Benz GLC

The Mercedes-Benz GLC has achieved the top score in the Euro NCAP rating. The new mid-size SUV has received five stars, continuing the Mercedes-Benz success story in impressive style. The GLC has achieved five stars for occupant safety, child safety, pedestrian protection and its assistance systems – giving it the maximum score in the Euro NCAP rating. The basis for this outstanding result is the perfect interaction between active and passive safety: the combination of a highly rigid safety passenger cell, highly effective restraint systems, the latest driver assistance systems and other measures leads to first-class test results.

Ford Commercial Sales Sail Through 100,000 for 2015

Ford has sold more than 100,000 commercial vehicles (CV) for the year-to-date, the first time sales have passed six figures in a full year since 1989. Ford CV sales for November were at the highest-ever level for more than 25 years, and more than double those of its nearest rival. Ford is on track to record its highest-ever commercial vehicle sales volume for 2015, following a record year in 1989 at 104,721 sales. 2015 marks

the Ford Transit's 50th year of market leadership, and the first full year of sales for the expanded Ford Transit range since the Transit Courier was launched in mid-2014.

JAGUAR LAND ROVER CONFIRMS NEW SLOVAKIAN FACTORY

Jaguar Land Rover has confirmed that it will be the first British carmaker to open a manufacturing facility in Slovakia. The announcement follows an agreement between the company and the Government of the Slovak Republic to build a new plant in the city of Nitra. The new world-class £1 billion premium manufacturing facility will eventually employ around 2,800 people. The announcement follows Jaguar Land Rover's recent confirmation to double its investment in its engine plant in the UK to almost £1 billion – the largest injection into a new British manufacturing plant in decades creating several hundred new jobs

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New Mitsubishi L200 – What Van? Magazine's Big Winner

The Mitsubishi L200 is the 2016 What Van? Light Commercial Vehicle of the Year. The award, from the UK's leading LCV magazine, rewards the new pick-up's massive improvement in interior quality, drive and, crucially for light commercial vehicle operators, efficiency. Mitsubishi collected the coveted trophy at the exclusive What Van? Awards luncheon, held in partnership with fuel card giant Allstar at The Brewery in London on Tuesday 15 December. The L200 also collected the Pick-up of the Year award, while Mitsubishi completed a hat-trick with the Outlander 4Work PHEV winning the What Van? Green Award.

The New SLC – New Name, New Dynamic

In March 2016, 20 years on from the birth of its segment, the archetypal compact roadster is to be relaunched with a new name – SLC – significantly optimised technology and an enhanced look. The name change acknowledges the traditionally close relationship with the C-Class, from which much of the roadster's technology is derived. There are new additions to the model line-up – the sporty top-of-the-line Mercedes-AMG SLC 43 and the entry-level SLC 180. In visual terms, stand-out features include the standard-fit diamond radiator grille and the LED Intelligent Light System (optional extra). Prices will be announced when the SLC is available to order in mid-January 2016, with first cars arriving in showrooms from April 2016.

Hyundai Motor's New Alternative-Fuel Ioniq

A new rendering of Hyundai Motor's all-new IONIQ hints at how the innovative, alternative-fuel compact vehicle, which is due for launch in early 2016, will combine head-turning good looks with class-leading aerodynamic performance. Hyundai Motor has confirmed that the IONIQ will be the world's first car to offer a choice of three efficient and ultra-low-emission powertrains: full electric, plug-in gasoline / electric hybrid, or gasoline / electric hybrid. With a sleek, coupe-like silhouette and numerous eye-catching details, its confident design is a match for its bold environmental credentials

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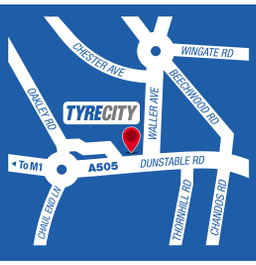

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Sport on sunday

That was the year that was

HATS OFF: With manager John Still out of the picture, Luton Town can only hope that when he is replaced they can turn around a so far disappointing season

Another New Year is upon us – it really hasn't felt like 12 months since we last said that.

Here, we look back on how Bedfordshire's major clubs and sporting figures fared in 2015 and what can be expected in the months ahead with the football and rugby seasons at their half-way marks.

Wright on SPORT
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mattywright86

LUTON TOWN

After the high of promotion back to the Football League that 2014 brought, 2015 will go down as a year of unfulfilled promise and under-achievement at Kenilworth Road.

Twelve months ago, Luton were fourth in League Two, just two points away from its summit and seemingly on their way towards challenging for a second successive promotion.

However, the wheels fell off spectacularly in the spring with a catastrophic run of seven consecutive defeats in the lead up to Easter, dumping them outside the play-off places.

In an effort to make a concerted push for League One, the Hatters brought in 12 players over the summer with many of them having experience of playing at a higher level.

But manager John Still couldn't get the new-look side to perform consistently, which cost him his job in December, and his successor, yet to be appointed at the time of writing, faces a big task in salvaging their campaign.

BEDFORD BLUES

The mood around Goldington Road at the turn of the year is much more positive than at the end of last season, which ended in a 10th-place finish in the Championship – the lowest in director of rugby Mike Rayer's decade in charge.

A lack of confidence saw wins hard to come by in the first few months of the year, leading to some critics to predict a struggle against relegation this campaign.

How wrong they (ahem) were as the Blues have gone through an exciting revival in the second half of 2015, playing the sort of expansive, flowing rugby that they had become renowned for.

As things stand, a push for the play-offs is very much on the cards for this young and vibrant team that have brought smiles back to the faces of their loyal supporters.

■ Achievement of the Year goes to Ampthill RFC after they secured promotion to National League One for the first time in their history, and they've adapted well to English rugby's third tier so far this season. They look set to push on in 2016.

This year, of course, is Olympic year and there are several athletes from the county who go into it with high hopes.

Charlotte Taylor (rowing) won European gold alongside Kat Copeland last year and is looking to cap a remarkable rise. Etienne Stott has a title to defend in Rio should he make it alongside C-2 partner Mark Proctor, while former Sharnbrook Upper School pupil Giles Scott (sailing) is favourite in the Finn class.

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EXCITING TIMES: Bedford rower Charlotte Taylor (top, right) could be competing in the Olympics alongside 2012 champion Kat Copeland in the lightweight double scull, while Bedford Blues have powered their way into fourth place in the at the turn of the year in the Championship after a revival in fortunes that has enthralled the crowds at Goldington Road

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Team would back James as the boss

LUTON TOWN

BY JAMES CUNLIFFE
sport@lsnmedia.co.uk

LUTON players will be fully supportive of David James if the ex-England goalkeeper is appointed their next manager, according to goalkeeper Mark Tyler.

The 45-year-old, who watched the Boxing Day 2-0 League Two defeat to Wycombe from the Kenilworth Road executive seats, is the 1/2 bookmakers' favourite to succeed John Still.

James has already spent time with Luton – the club he supported as a boy – over the last 18 months on his way to securing his UEFA A-Licence, including some time on the practice pitch with Tyler.

"Jamo's been great for me, just watching him in training, the goalkeeping side of it, that's it really. If he's manager, I can see the whole squad being behind him and we'll have no problems with it," said Tyler.

"He's great to have around the place. I love working with him and he joins in with us. That other side of it, management, I don't know how he is because he's just taken a few sessions. He might have a totally different style of management to everyone else.

"But, if it's him, everyone knows him, we'll be right behind him and we'll see."

However, the betting saw Cardiff's Russell Slade come from nowhere as a 4/1 contender after the Hatters' 0-0 at Portsmouth on Monday, which highlighted how changeable the betting is and Tyler said: "We don't read too much into it."

Stephen O'Donnell, who started as right back at Fratton Park after three months on the sidelines, said: "I think the odds get looked kind of more as chit-chat, nothing too serious. There are some players that have worked with him [James] and gossip going around, but we just keep our head down."

James would still be seen as a brave choice as his only managerial experience came last year as a player-boss with cricket batsman Sachin Tendulkar's Kerala Blasters franchise in a 16-game Indian Super League season.

> He's great to have around the place. I love working with him and he joins in with us

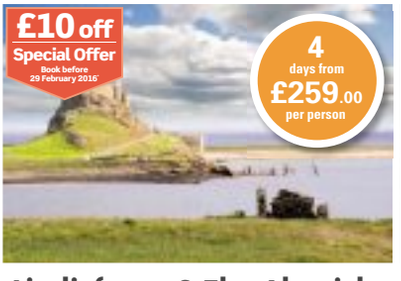
"If he comes in, the boys all know him. He's relatively inexperienced as a manager, so I don't know what to expect but he's great around the dressing room when he's in. If he gets it, best of luck," said O'Donnell.

"You've seen many inexperienced managers come in and wipe the floor and do brilliant but you've also probably seen it the other way. Whatever the directors decide, hopefully it's the best for the club and we can push on up the league."

NEXT BOSS?: David James has been tipped to succeed John Still as manager

Luton on sunday

Coach Holidays



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Luton defender Stephen O'Donnell opens up about his three months in the wilderness

Starting afresh after long exile

SUDDEN RECALL: Stephen O'Donnell made his first appearance for the Hatters since September in Monday's goalless draw at high-flying Portsmouth

LUTON TOWN

BY JAMES CUNLIFFE
sport@lsnmedia.co.uk

STEPHEN O'Donnell says his long Luton lay-off was not what he'd imagined when he left Scotland – but that his three-month exile wasn't all down to a hernia operation.

The right-back swapped Scottish Premiership outfit Partick Thistle for the Hatters in the summer but his new club went on a five-game winless start to the League Two campaign and the 23-year-old admitted that his performances for Town had not been good enough.

While results picked up in September, O'Donnell was substituted during the 2-0 win over Wimbledon and dropped for the 3-1 victory at Morecambe three days later.

After ten appearances he played no further part in first team affairs but almost a month passed before it was revealed a hernia operation was required. However, the defender has admitted he was raring to go a fortnight after going under the knife.

Manager John Still was sacked on December 17 and caretaker boss Andy Awford brought the Scot back from the wilderness for Monday's 0-0 draw at Portsmouth.

O'Donnell said: "It was a nice change. I've kind of been in the cold for a good two months. I had an operation when I first dropped out. I had a hernia since pre-season and it was good to get that fixed, but obviously I want to play and that wasn't going to happen, so I needed to make the decision for myself.

"I managed to get fixed and hopefully [I'm] getting back in. You need to be patient. Sean [Long] has been really good.

"You can't really look for excuses. I was looking to play two weeks after I came back [from the operation] and you can't be moaning and knocking on the door and saying, 'why am I not playing? I came down here wanting to play.' You're never going to be happy [if you're not] and if you find a player that is happy then it's maybe not the right attitude."

Yet, despite his desire to get back on the pitch, O'Donnell's time in the Kenilworth Road wilderness totalled 17 games.

Even though they struggled to just six victories in that time, he had to watch on as Scott Cuthbert, Long – who returns to Reading after his loan ended yesterday – and midfielder Alex Lawless were all preferred in his position.

O'Donnell said: "Football is a funny old game, you can't dwell on it too much. It was hard to take. I moved away from my family. It was getting injured and not doing well enough which allowed me to get the operation. It isn't something I'd pictured when I signed in the summer.

"All you can do is keep working hard and trying to apply yourself at training. You can be grumpy whenever you're not playing, especially when there are defeats. Players are going to want to play when there's obviously something not quite clicking. That's football, you need to take the highs with the lows."

The shut-out at Fratton Park was only Luton's sixth of the season and O'Donnell is now hoping for a fresh start in his Hatters career.

"Hopefully I'll be involved," he said before yesterday's trip to Bristol Rovers, adding: "There may be a couple of reasons but, at the end of the day, my performances haven't been good enough, but hopefully I can kick on now."

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